

JUSTICE FOR ATOMIC VETERANS  
ACT—H.R. 1286

**HON. LANE EVANS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 25, 1999*

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, on behalf on myself and Congresswoman BERKLEY, I am today introducing H.R. 1286 the Justice for Atomic Veterans Act. This important legislation provides a presumption of service-connection for certain radiation-related illnesses suffered by veterans who were exposed during military service to ionizing radiation. These veterans include those who participated in atmospheric testing of a nuclear device, who participated in the occupation of Hiroshima or Nagasaki between August 6, 1945 and July 1, 1946 and who were interned as prisoners of war in Japan during World War II and were therefore exposed to ionizing radiation.

During their military service, these veterans put their lives and health at risk. They were, in most cases, sworn to secrecy concerning the nature of their work. They were not provided with adequate protection from radiation. The amount of radiation to which they were exposed was not measured. Albert "Smoky" Parrish, a veteran who served at the Nevada test site wrote "We, the Atomic veterans feel like an innocent man in prison for life, and no one will listen to the facts of the case."

Under present law, veterans who engaged in radiation risk activities during military service are entitled to a presumption of service-connection for some illnesses, but for other illnesses veterans must prove causation by "dose reconstruction estimates" which many reputable scientists have found fatally flawed. Because of the recognized problems inherent in dose reconstruction, last year, the Department of Veterans Affairs Deputy Under Secretary for Health, Dr. Kenneth Kizer, wrote that he personally recommended strong support as a "matter of equity and fairness" for legislation similar to the Justice for Atomic Veterans Act which was then proposed by Senator WELLSTONE.

It is not the fault of veterans that accurate records of their exposure to ionizing radiation were not kept and maintained. In fact, many veterans have not been able to obtain their medical records relating to their exposure during military service despite their best efforts. Records have been lost and records of radiation-related activities were classified and not made available to the veterans seeking compensation.

According to Dr. Kizer, "the scientific methodology that is the basis for adjudicating radiation exposure cases may be sound, the problem is that the exposure cannot be reliably determined for many individuals, and it never will be able to be determined in my judgment. Thus, no matter how good the method is, if the input is not valid then the determination will be suspect."

Our atomic veterans were put in harm's way in the service of our government. However, our government failed to collect the data and provide the follow-up that would enable our atomic veterans to effectively pursue claims for the harm which resulted.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

*March 25, 1999*

Further, Congresswoman BERKLEY and I agree with the statement in the 1995 final report of the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments: "When the nation exposes servicemen and women to hazardous substances, there is an obligation to keep appropriate records of both the exposures and the long-term medical outcomes."

Our Nation failed to keep records on the exposures experienced by our atomic veterans. Veterans should not suffer for that neglect. Let us right the injustices visited on our atomic veterans since the days of World War II. Congress should enact a presumption of service-connection for illnesses which are likely to be due to radiation risk activity. Our veterans deserve this simple act of justice.

PROTECTION OF AMERICAN WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS FROM MUSCULOSKELETAL DISORDERS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 25, 1999*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recommend that OSHA be enabled to continue its work on protecting American workers and employees by preventing Musculoskeletal injuries and other injuries at the workplace of America. An update of OSHA guidelines (which have been extensively and voluntarily used by employers for the last 10 years) is timely.

American employers currently spend \$15–20 billion/year on disability and absenteeism due to work-related musculoskeletal disorders, not considering the legal costs of law suits filed by employees. The total cost to the American society is about \$60 billion/year due to medical costs and lost productivity of injured employees.

The ergonomics of work is a well-studied field by scientists in academia and NIOSH and the conclusions from that research point that most musculoskeletal disorders caused by the unsound ergonomic practices could be avoided if guidelines by OSHA were implemented at the workplace, thus protecting workers from un-necessary suffering and saving money for employers. While the regulations by OSHA may be improved and made more efficient, flexible and responsive to the needs of a particular employer, OSHA's capability to protect American workers and employers should be maintained.

I believe that the costs of efficient OSHA regulations for protecting workers from musculoskeletal injuries are minuscule in comparison with the cost of maintaining the status quo and continuity of costly musculoskeletal injuries in the workplace.

HONORING JACK STARK UPON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. DAVID DREIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 25, 1999*

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, Jack Stark, the President of Claremont McKenna College,

after nearly three decades of outstanding leadership, is retiring in July of this year. He will be succeeded by Pamela Brooks Gann, currently Dean of Duke University School of Law.

For thirty years, the world of higher education has been roiled by change. The free speech movement of the 1960's, the first challenge to campus authority, was succeeded by demands for black and other ethnic studies, by the anti-war movement, by sit-ins and violent demonstrations against ROTC. Then came contests over affirmative action in admission and faculty hiring, the challenge to courses in Western Civilization, "Gay Rights," and the passions aroused by "political correctness." Throughout this turmoil, Claremont McKenna College, unlike so many other academic institutions, has held firmly to its founding mission—and it has prospered mightily.

Jack Stark kept CMC on course through these stressful years, built its endowment, raised admission standards, and recruited distinguished faculty. If this were the sum of Jack Stark's achievement, we would honor him as one of the nation's great academic leaders. It is not only as a conservator, however, but also as an educational innovator that he deserves our attention.

Jack Stark built on the campus of CMC—a small, private, undergraduate liberal arts college—nine research institutes, each different in its scholarly focus, but each contributing to the education of CMC's one thousand students.

The first to be founded was The Henry Salvatori Center for the Study of Individual Freedom in the Modern World. The Salvatori Center supports the study of the conditions essential to the preservation of liberty, and under its directors, Ward Elliott, Ralph Rossum and Charles Kesler, has contributed vigorously to intellectual debate.

The Rose Institute of State and Local Government, which was founded 25 years ago this April, specializes in survey research, fiscal analysis, and database development. The Institute authors studies of political and demographic trends, and its student team is trained in many aspects of computer-aided research. Its Board Chairman, Al Lunsford, refers to it as an "unmatched resource of data and analysis in its geographical area of focus," and under its long-time director, Dr. Alan Heslop, the Institute has built a formidable reputation.

The third to be founded was The Institute of Decision Science, which provides practical experience in economic and mathematical modeling, decision-making, and risk analysis for industry, government and the professions. It sponsors research and presents conferences on topics in decision science. IDS and its director, Janet Myhre, are frequently consulted by government agencies and major industrial corporations.

Next to be founded was The Lowe Institute of Political Economy. Initially under the direction of Dr. Craig Stubblebine, now headed by Dr. Sven Arndt, the Lowe Institute supports the study of major issues in economic policy. Recent work has focused on the North American Free Trade Agreement, APEC and on trade and regulatory policies.

The Keck Center for International and Strategic Studies was founded to support the study of critical issues in world affairs by sponsoring lectures, fellowships, visiting scholars,

conferences, publications, and student internships. Its director, Dr. C. J. Lee, is an expert on Asia and has led the center in studies on Korean affairs.

The Family of Benjamin Z. Gould Center of Humanistic Studies, originally headed by Dr. Ricardo Quinones, now by Dr. Jay Martin, is dedicated to understanding vital issues of the modern world in light of the perennial values provided by literature, philosophy, and religion. Towards this end, it sponsors publications, visiting speakers, student and faculty research, and organized lecture series.

The Roberts Environmental Center uses an interdisciplinary approach encompassing biology, chemistry, economics, and political science to analyze environmental problems and to evaluate policy alternatives. Under its founding director, the late Robert Felmeth, and now under Dr. Emil Morhardt, it conducts field research, trains students in the use of analytical software and sponsors the Environment, Economics, and Politics major.

The Kravis Leadership Institute provides for the academic study of leadership and sponsors speakers, mentoring, internships, and the Leadership Studies Sequence. Its director, Dr. Ronald Riggio, has been one of the pioneers of leadership studies in psychology.

Most recent is the newly formed Berger Institute on Work, Family, and Children—the ninth of the institutes to be fathered by Jack Stark.

At their best, these nine CMC research institutes provide students and faculty with opportunities to engage together in the investigation of key public policy issues. Students get close, hands-on experience of the challenges—the chores as well as the joys—of scholarship. Typically, their work is not for academic credit: the students are paid, and as their responsibilities increase so does their remuneration.

Research on important subjects, produced by small faculty-student teams, funded by outside grants and contracts, is achieving a solid reputation for CMC's institutes. CMC students are making important extra-curricular gains by working with faculty specialists in methodologies they are sure to encounter in their later careers and on the important subjects that face our society. Every one of those CMC students owes Jack Stark a debt of gratitude. The world of higher education, too, would be wise to note this pioneering achievement at Claremont McKenna College.

HONORING WAYNE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY FOR 150 YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 25, 1999*

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate a medical society which has provided quality service to Detroit, Wayne County, and the State of Michigan for the last 150 years.

On April 14, 1849 with just 50 physicians, the Wayne County Medical Society was founded. Today, with more than 4,200 physicians in their membership, they continue to provide

Metropolitan Detroit with the highest caliber of service and outstanding commitment to those in need.

As they celebrate their sesquicentennial anniversary, the Wayne County Medical Society has labored to promote and encourage the unity and loyalty of the physicians of the community into a strong and cohesive medical society. They have brought into one organization the physicians of this county and with other county societies to form the Michigan State Medical Society and the American Medical Association.

This beloved medical society provides continuing medical education for physicians, and maintains a program of educational service to the public on health and scientific matters. But, most of all they insure that a patient's freedom to choose a physician be maintained, and that patients receive the highest quality of medical care.

Over the years the Wayne County Medical Society has had a positive impact on the public health of both Detroit and Wayne County. One of its most memorable accomplishments came under the direction of its former president, Dr. Francis P. Rhoades, who led a polio immunization drive which immunized thousands of Detroiters and virtually eliminated the threat of this crippling disease.

Today, the Wayne County Medical Society runs a free medical and dental clinic at the Webber School in Detroit. Every child is afforded free services including physical examinations, health education, dental fluoride, sealants and prophylaxis. In addition they organized an annual Christmas Party for children in foster care. Last year, they sponsored a teen pregnancy conference with more than 500 Detroit Public School children in attendance.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and pride that I pay tribute to this exceptional medical society whose tradition of assisting those most in need is truly a part of Michigan's great history. I ask that all of my colleagues join me in recognizing the Wayne County Medical Society of Michigan on their 150th anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 25, 1999*

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I missed 19 recorded votes while I was out due to illness. If I had been present, my vote would have been cast as follows.

MARCH 17, 1999

Rollcall vote 53, on agreeing to Mr. Upton's amendment, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote 54, on agreeing to Mr. LoBiondo's amendment, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote 55, on passage of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1999, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote 56, on passage of the bill to provide for a Reduction in the Volume of Steel Imports, I would have voted "yes."

MARCH 18, 1999

Rollcall vote 57, on agreeing to the Rule regarding the National Missile Defense System, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote 58, on the motion to recommit with instructions, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall vote 59, on passage of the National Missile Defense System, I would have voted "yes."

MARCH 23, 1999

Rollcall vote 66, on agreeing to the Committee Funding Resolution, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote 65, on the motion to recommit the Committee Funding Resolution with instructions, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall vote 64, on the motion to instruct Conferees for the Education Flexibility Partnership Act, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall vote 63, to suspend the rules and pass H. Con. Res. 37 Concerning Anti-Semitic Statements Made by Members of the Duma of the Russian Federation, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote 62, to suspend the rules and pass H. Con. Res. 56 Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote 61, to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 70 the Arlington National Cemetery Burial Eligibility Act, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote 60, to suspend the rules and pass H. Res 121 Affirming the Congress' Opposition to All Forms of Racism and Bigotry, I would have voted "yes."

MARCH 24, 1999

Rollcall vote 67, on agreeing to Mr. Stenholm's amendment, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall vote 68, on agreeing to Mr. Obey's amendment, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall vote 69, on agreeing to Mr. Tiahrt's amendment, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote 70, on passing of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations of FY 1999, I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall vote 71, on agreeing to the Resolution Expressing support of the U.S. House of Representatives for the members of the U.S. Armed Forces engaged in military operations against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, I would have voted "yes."

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 800, EDUCATION FLEXIBILITY PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 23, 1999*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Clay motion to instruct. Mr. Speaker, the Ed-Flex bill in its current form lacks the efficiency and accountability needed to protect what took two decades to correct. Mr. Speaker, America understands that all students benefit where there is an appropriate ratio of students to teachers. Therefore, I echo America's call and ask that this Congress support initiatives to reduce class size by providing 100,000 new, qualified teachers.

I believe we can do both, support class size reduction, IDEA, and support local control of education. Some of my colleagues suggest we